



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 453

February Session, 2006

* SB00453HED__031406__ *

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A "YOU BELONG" LOAN REIMBURSEMENT GRANT PROGRAM FOR DOCTORAL GRADUATES WORKING IN ECONOMICALLY VALUABLE FIELDS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective July 1, 2006*) (a) There is established a
2 "You Belong" Loan Reimbursement Grant program, administered by
3 the Department of Higher Education, for graduates of doctoral
4 programs who are employed in Connecticut in economically valuable
5 fields.

6 (b) Within available appropriations, the program shall provide
7 student loan reimbursement grants for persons who (1) have been
8 awarded a doctoral degree from any institution of higher education,
9 and (2) are newly employed in Connecticut in an economically
10 valuable field, as determined by the Department of Economic and
11 Community Development, on or after January 1, 2006, by a company
12 or an institution of higher education that has registered with or
13 otherwise been qualified under the program by the Department of
14 Economic and Community Development.

15 (c) Persons who qualify under subsections (b) and (d) of this section
16 shall receive reimbursement grants on an annual basis for qualifying
17 student loan payments in amounts as determined by the
18 Commissioner of Higher Education. A person qualifying under

19 subsections (b) and (d) of this section shall only be reimbursed for loan
 20 payments made while such person is employed in Connecticut by a
 21 qualifying company or in research at an institution of higher education
 22 in an economically valuable field. The Department of Higher
 23 Education shall develop eligibility requirements for recipients of such
 24 reimbursement grants in consultation with the Department of
 25 Economic and Community Development. Such requirements may
 26 include income guidelines. Persons may apply for grants to the
 27 Department of Higher Education at such time and in such manner as
 28 the Commissioner of Higher Education prescribes.

29 (d) The recipients of reimbursement grants pursuant to this section
 30 for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2007, and each succeeding fiscal
 31 year, shall constitute a cohort and reimbursement grants for
 32 succeeding years shall only be available for members of such cohort.

33 (e) Any unexpended funds appropriated for purposes of this section
 34 shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year but shall be available for
 35 expenditure during the next fiscal year.

36 (f) The Department of Higher Education may use up to two per cent
 37 of the funds appropriated for purposes of this section for program
 38 administration, promotion and recruitment activities.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2006	New section

HED *Joint Favorable Subst.*